

I deeply regret Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest -- all of it, which means both sides of an issue. However, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. A fully informed public is one of the cornerstones of a democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it is important that we see real people from our own communities and substantive news about the issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.